

MARVEL

#3

COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA

VENOM



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, BUT, IN THE PROCESS, WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON, UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

BONDED TO A HOMELESS MAN AND STUMBLING THROUGH BROOKLYN, THE SYMBIOTE INADVERTENTLY WALKED INTO AN ARMS DEAL GONE BAD. ONE OF THE MEN AT THE SCENE, A FORMER ARMY RANGER NAMED LEE PRICE, WAS IN THE LINE OF FIRE WHEN, IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HIS LIFE, THE SYMBIOTE INSTINCTIVELY BLANKETED ITSELF OVER HIM.

IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, PRICE AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE BONDED, AND THANKS TO HIS MILITARY TRAINING, LEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPOSE HIS WILL UPON THE CREATURE IN THE HOPES OF UNDERMINING THE BLACK CAT IN HER QUEST TO BECOME NEW YORK'S KINGPIN OF CRIME.

HE JUST HAS TO DEAL WITH THE F.B.I. AGENTS WHO ARE ON HIS TAIL FIRST...

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THOUGH WE ARE A
BENEVOLENT SPECIES,
THERE IS NO LITERATURE
ON MY HOME PLANET.

AND THOUGH IT IS OUR GOAL
TO MAKE THE UNIVERSE BETTER,
WE CREATE NO ART, NO MUSIC,
NO CULTURE. AT LEAST, NOT
AS OTHER CIVILIZATIONS WOULD
UNDERSTAND IT.

ALL WE HAVE ARE OUR
HOSTS--THE BEINGS WE
JOIN WITH--TO FORGE
THROUGH THE COLD
AND UNFORGIVING
COSMOS WITH.

THE BOND BETWEEN A
KLYNTAR AND ITS HOST
IS SACRED. THEY GIVE
OUR LIVES CONTEXT AND
OUR EXISTENCE MEANING.

THEY GIVE US
HISTORY.

ALL WE HAVE
ARE OUR HOSTS
TO TELL US WHO
WE ARE.



GET--
RELEASE THE
HOSTAGE AND GET DOWN
ON YOUR KNEES WITH YOUR
HANDS BEHIND YOUR
HEAD!

OH #%^\$,
PARTNER!

IS THAT
VENOM?! I
THOUGHT HE WAS
ONE OF THE
GOO--

GET BACK
TO THE CAR,
COYLE!

AND YOU!
RELEASE
THE HOSTAGE!
I WON'T ASK
AGAIN!

YOU WANT
TO TAKE A POKE
AT ME NEXT? FINE.
FIREBUG HERE
WON'T TAKE
LONG.

NNNNNGG...
F...F...

#%^&
YOU!

AAAARRRGHH!

SKRABOOM

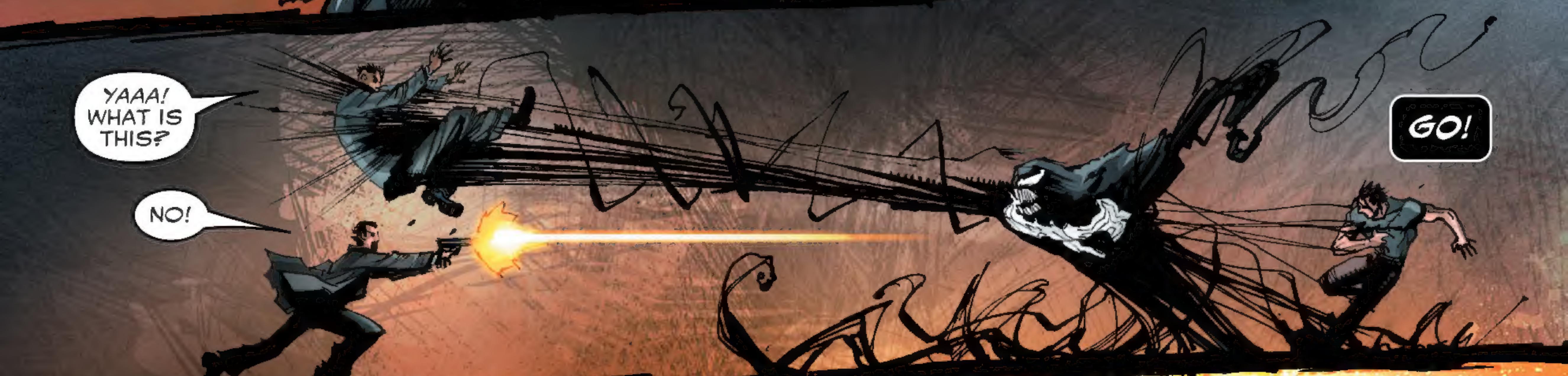
AW, HELL.

NYARRRGH!

COME ON, KEEP IT
TOGETHER! I KNOW
IT HURTS, BUT GET IT
UNDER CONTROL!

I CAN'T DO THIS!
NEED SOMEONE ELSE.
ANYONE ELSE.
ANYONE ELSE!

HOLD IT
TOGETHER OR
WE DIE!





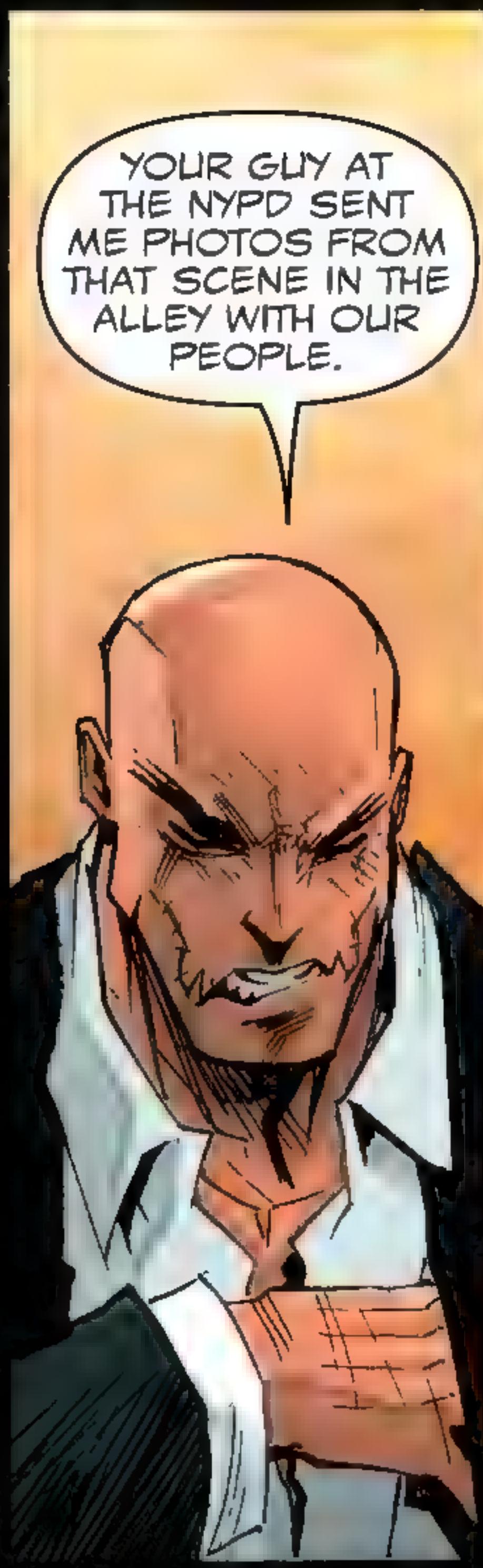
TO SAVE LIVES.

DAMN IT.

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

BLACK CAT'S HEADQUARTERS.



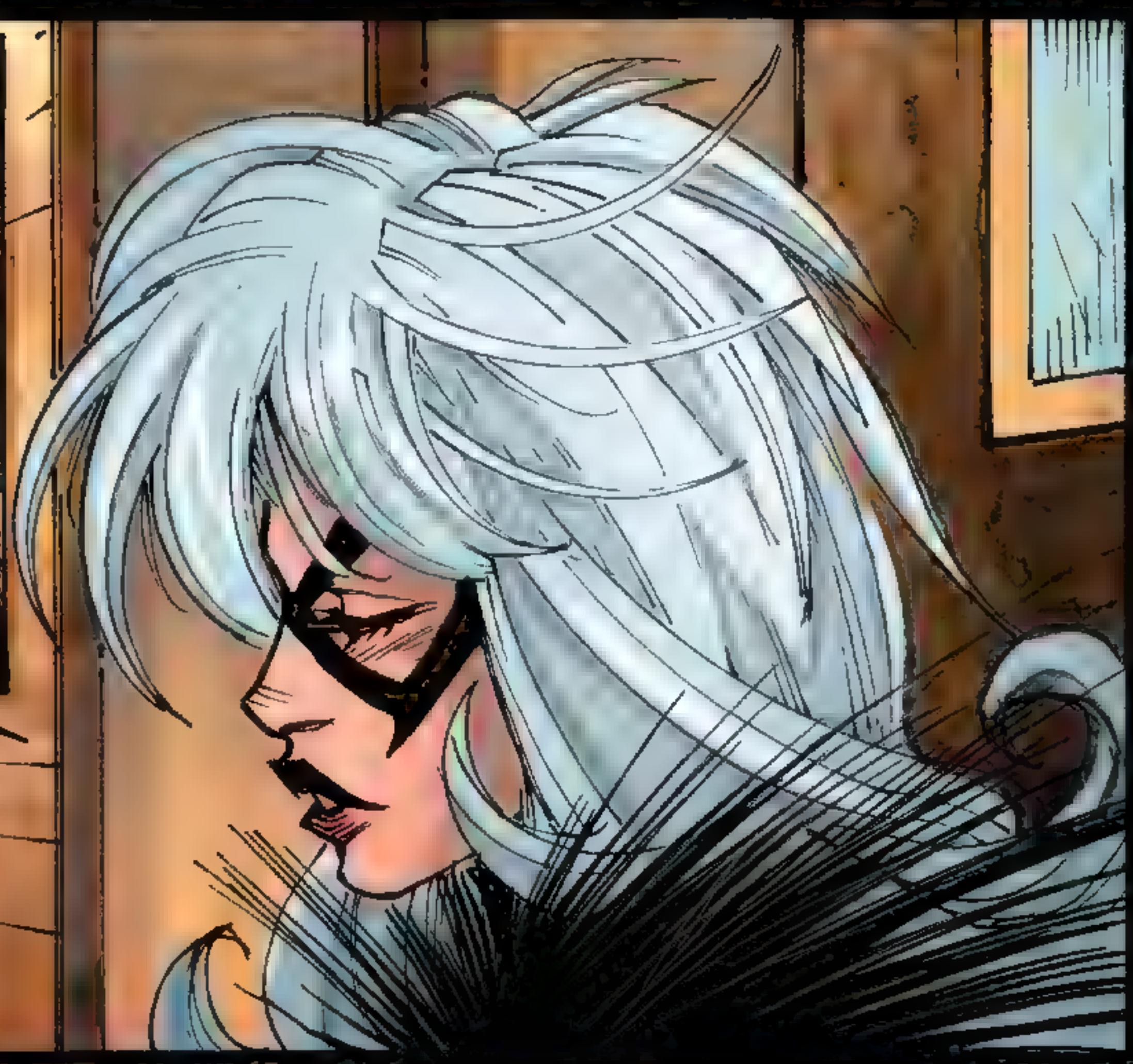


THIS LOOK LIKE THEY WERE SHOT UP BY TOMBSTONE'S BOYS TO YOU?



GARGAN, IF I REFUSED TO WORK WITH LIARS, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO WORK WITH.

WE KNEW WHATEVER WENT DOWN THERE WAS A SUPERHUMAN AMBUSH BEFORE THAT MAN EVEN SET FOOT IN OUR DOOR. THIS COULD BE ONE OF THE KINGPIN'S BOYS MAKING A MOVE. THIS COULD BE ANYTHING.





"I JUST NEEDED SOMETHING TO SET IT FREE."

NNNFF...

WHERE... WHERE AM--

THIS... IS TONY'S PLACE.

I SAW IT IN YOUR MEMORIES. IT WAS THE ONLY PLACE THAT SEEMED SAFE.

EXPLAINS WHY I WAS DREAMING ABOUT HIM.

YES. I SAW YOUR DREAMS, TOO.

BUT YOU **SAVED** ME, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU WANT TO HATE ME, BUT YOU **SAVED** ME.

I DO
HATE YOU, LEE
PRICE.

BUT THAT
DOES NOT MEAN
I WILL LET YOU DIE
WHILE IT IS IN MY
POWER TO SAVE
YOU. I PROTECT
LIFE.

HEH. YEAH,
YOU WERE REALLY
KEEN ON PROTECTING
THE LIFE OF THAT KID
WHO TRIED TO
INCINERATE
US.

THAT
WAS...

FIRE
IS--

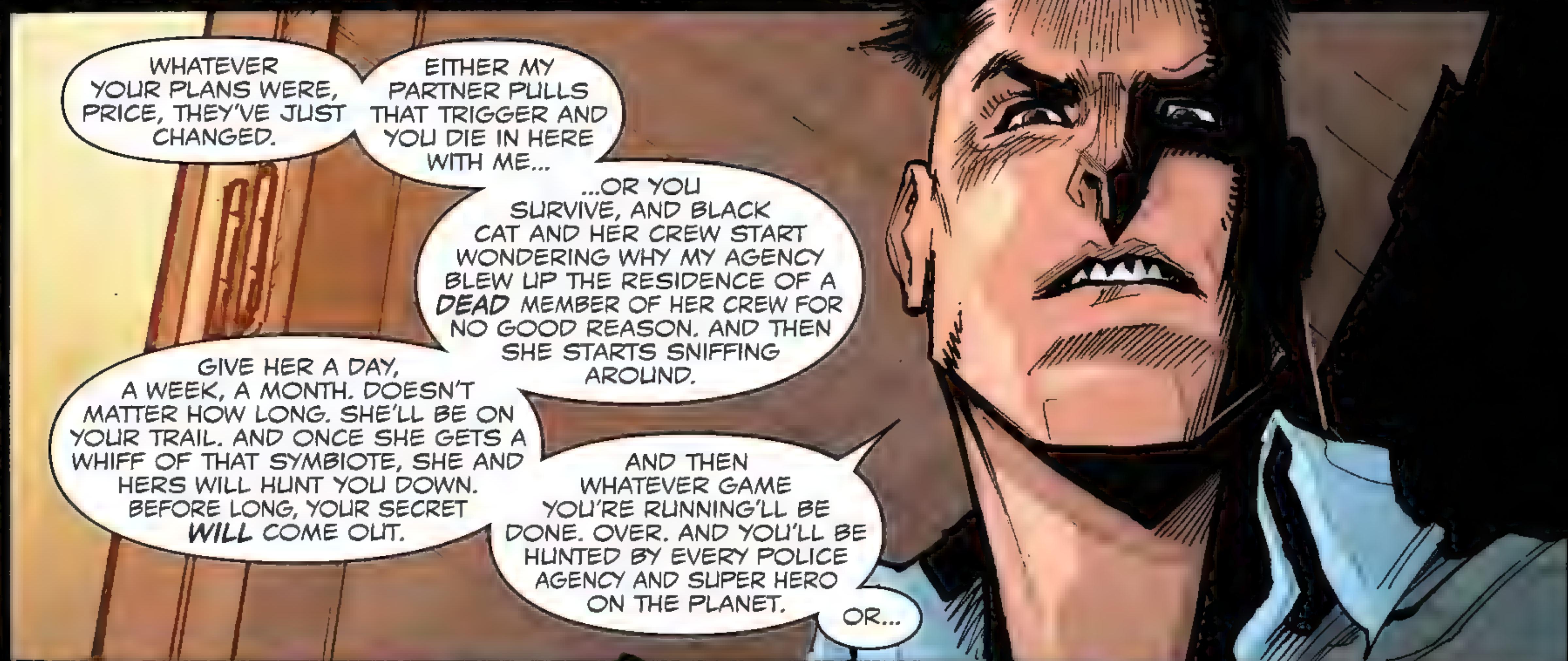
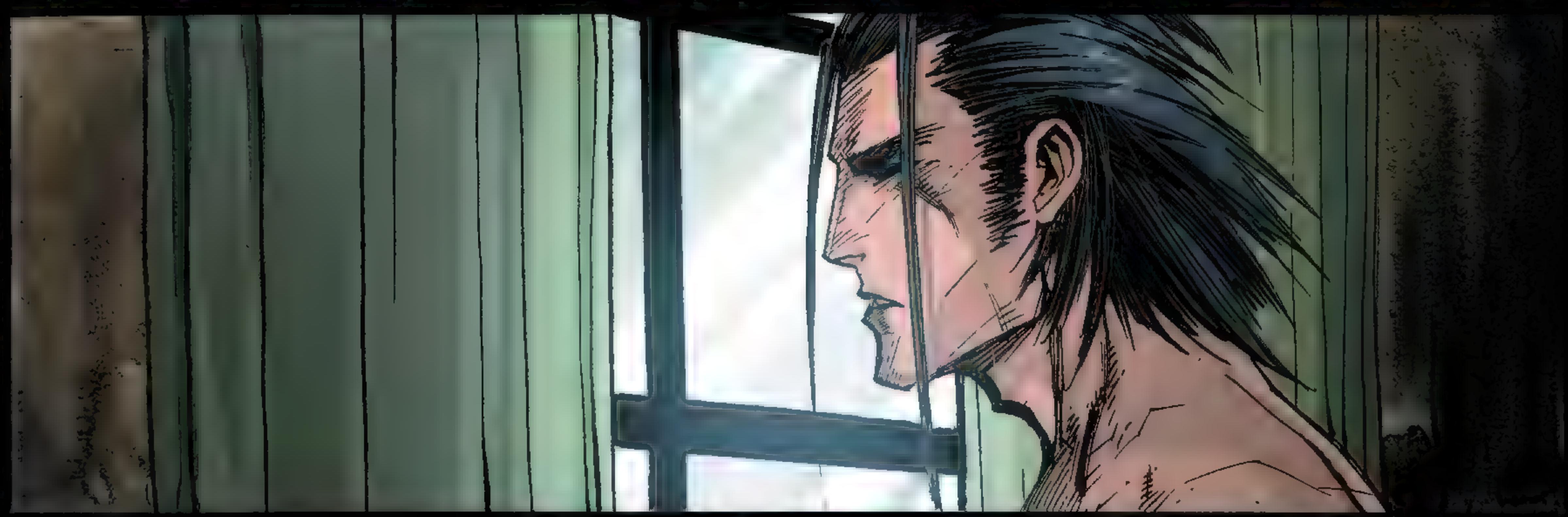
I GET IT.
YOU'RE LIKE A
DOG. SMART WHEN
YOU'RE CALM, BUT WHEN
YOU'RE SPOOKED?
JUST AN ANIMAL
ACTING ON
INSTINCT.

YOU THINK
YOU WANT TO BE
A HERO. BUT WHAT
YOU REALLY WANT,
MORE THAN
ANYTHING...

...IS FOR
SOMEONE TO BE
IN CHARGE.







...YOU
WORK FOR
US.

YOU'RE WHAT
WE SAY YOU ARE. YOU
GO WITH THIS DEAL, AND WE ALL
BENEFIT. YOU DON'T, AND...IT'S
OVER FOR ALL OF US. ONE
WAY OR ANOTHER.

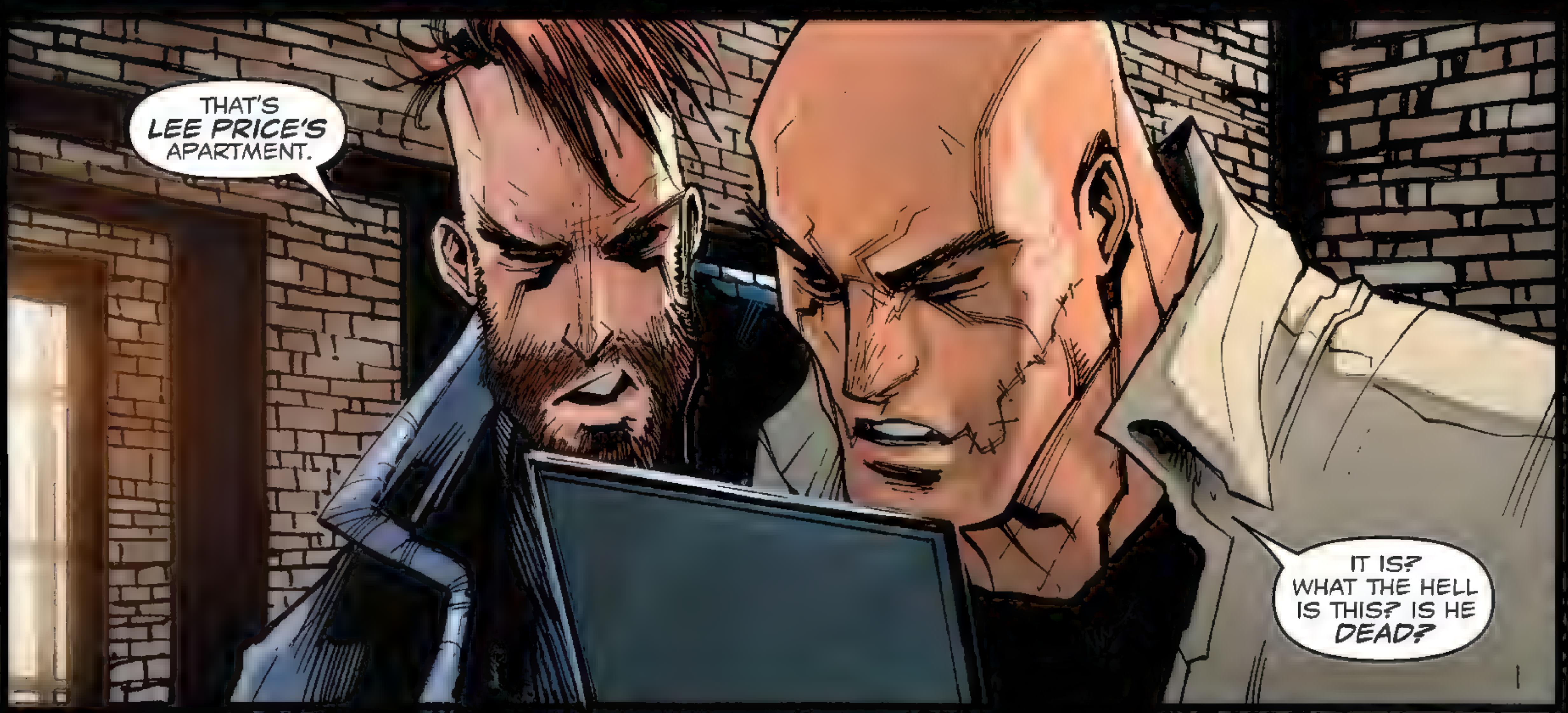
SO I'M
YOUR RAT
NOW?

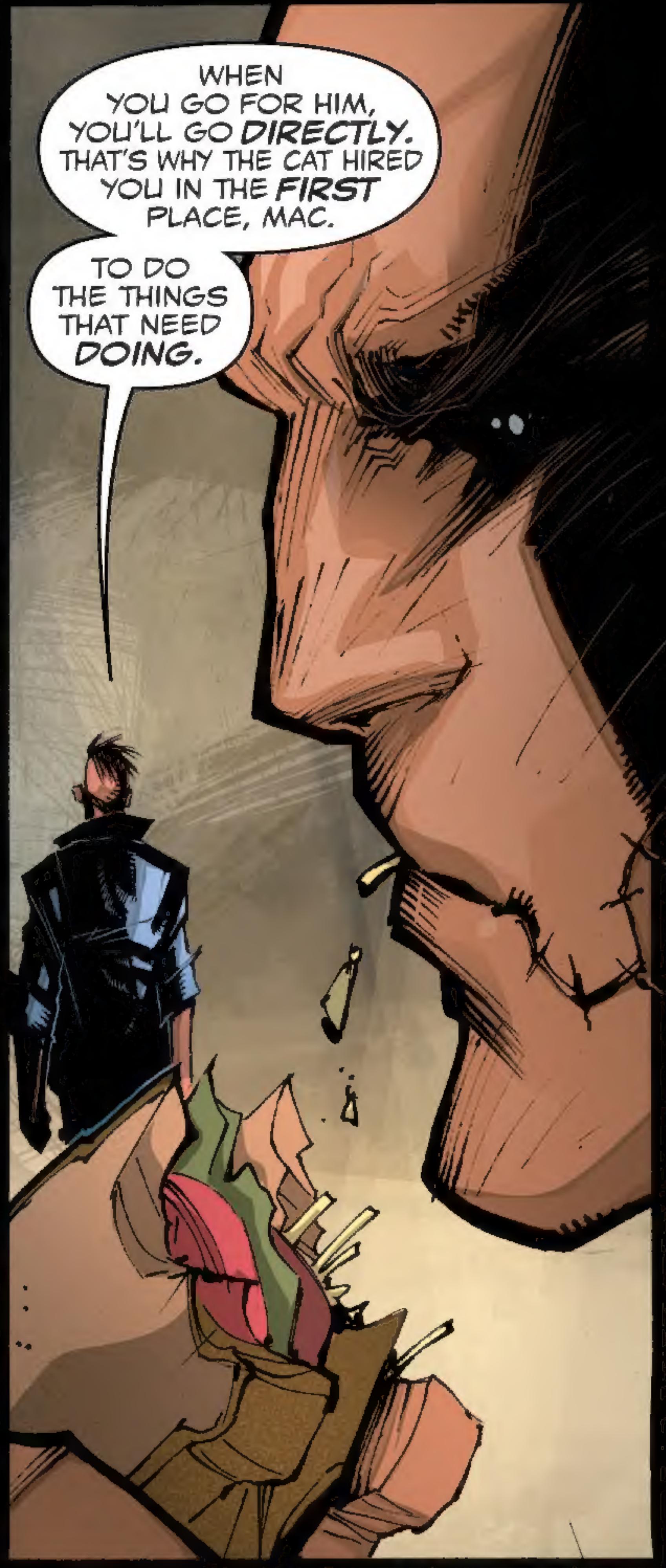
I UNDERSTAND
YOUR ANGER AT BEING
FORCED INTO ACTION.
BUT WE'LL BE WORKING
TO DEFEAT CRIMINALS!
GOOD CAN COME
OF THIS!

YOU THINK
HE'S ANY DIFFERENT
THAN ME BECAUSE HE'S
GOT A BADGE?

SINCE I'M NOT
BEING MURDERED
BY A SURGE OF BLACK
GOO RIGHT NOW, I'M
ASSUMING YOU SEE
THE SENSE
IN THIS.

YOU CAN
MEET ME IN THE
SQUARE IN FRONT
OF PARKER INDUSTRIES
TOMORROW AT NOON.
WE'LL TALK DETAILS
THEN.







TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT **THE SCORPION STRIKES!**



PLUS! AN **OVERSIZED** LETTER COLUMN, FEATURING YOUR LETTERS AND AN **EXCLUSIVE** PEEK AT

VENOM #150!

